



NORTH TEXAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
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WASTEWATER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Crump called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. on Wednesday, August 25, 2021. The meeting was conducted by teleconference. Chairman Crump provided general instructions to the attendees as follows:

In lieu of physical attendance, the public may teleconference in to meeting by calling toll free (1) (844)-621-3956 and entering the following access code: 928 587 040. Members of the public wishing to make public comment during the meeting should follow the instructions for on-line registration listed under Item II. below no later than the start time of the meeting. The meeting will be recorded, and the audio recording will be available on the NTMWD website after the meeting.

Chairman Crump called the roll and confirmed teleconference attendance of the Wastewater Committee members including Chairman George Crump, Directors Robert Appolito, Marvin Fuller, and Lynn Shuyler. Directors Marlo Obera and John Murphy were absent. Any reference to a unanimous vote refers to a unanimous vote of the Committee members present.

Members of the Executive Committee were present as well as other Board members and members of the NTMWD management team. Lauren Kalisek with Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend attended via teleconference.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS (FOR TELECONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ONLY)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON-LINE REGISTRATION: Prior to the start of the Wastewater Committee meeting, members of the public wishing to provide public comment must submit via email to PublicRelations.Info@ntmwd.com their first and last name, organization, comment topic, mailing address and email address. During the public comment portion of the meeting, speakers will be recognized by name and asked to provide their comments. The time limit is five (5) minutes per speaker, not to exceed a total of thirty (30) minutes for all speakers. The Committee may not discuss these items, but may respond with factual or policy information. Public comment is provided for committee meetings held by teleconference during the COVID-19 health threat to confirm the opportunity for two-way communication with the public during the meeting.

There were no requests for public comments.

II. OPENING REMARKS

- A. Chairman/Executive Director/Committee Champion Status Report concerning legislation and regulatory matters, budgets, current projects and ongoing Wastewater System programs of the District

Chairman Crump announced that he selected Marlo Obera as Vice-Chair of the Wastewater Committee.

Deputy Director Billy George advised that the Rowlett Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (RWWTP) Zoning Request for the addition of a new operations building was denied by the Plano City Council on August 9, 2021. Staff has met with city leadership and are considering alternative paths forward.

Mr. George advised that the Floyd Branch RWWTP treatment upset resulting from receiving low pH water will be covered in some detail at this meeting. Operations personnel started seeing some low pH water again this morning at this plant and are working with the City of Richardson and other enforcement agencies to investigate the source for likely enforcement action. Plant staff are aggressively monitoring inflows and are prepared to attempt to raise the pH of water entering the Floyd Branch Plant.

Mr. George advised that on July 6, 2021, the South Mesquite RWWTP had 73,952 gallons of partially treated wastewater spilled during the isolation of flows to repair an air header valve. The majority of the flows were contained by a berm, and some overflowed to the creek.

Mr. George advised that on August 8, 2021, regarding the Wilson Creek RWWTP, NTMWD issued a required press release notifying the public that 89,760 gallons of partially treated wastewater was spilled when a contractor damaged a 20-inch activated sludge pipeline. The discharge was contained in a construction excavation and did not leave the plant site. All impacted areas were cleaned and disinfected.

Mr. George advised that on August 16, 2021, at the Rowlett Creek RWWTP, 18,400 gallons of fully treated wastewater spilled during performance testing of the membrane bioreactor. The spill was caused by the failure of two effluent pumps and was fully contained within the plant's boundary. The event was reported to the TCEQ as required.

Mr. George added that yesterday there was a pipe coupling failure in the Lakeside Lift Station drywell causing some sewage to drain into the drywell and flood a pump. The wetwell volume was managed by using vacuum trucks to remove raw sewage and truck it to the Buffalo Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. NTMWD's Maintenance crews responded to remove the flooded pump motor and replace it, which took until late yesterday evening. Staff requested that the Executive Director declare an emergency yesterday afternoon for the purpose of procuring additional vacuum truck removal services and in case any rapid-repair services were needed. An emergency was declared, and an additional vac truck was at the site. The pump was restored yesterday evening and is working as intended. It is not anticipated that the emergency expenditure will exceed \$25k or over-expend the budget.

Mr. George reviewed that Discussion Items C. and D. are included on this agenda in anticipation of there being no Wastewater Committee meeting in September. Item C. includes a discussion on the South Mesquite RWWTP Peak Flow Management and Expansion Project, and Item D. includes a discussion on the Lower East Fork Regional Water Resource Recovery Facility (RWRRF) conceptual design. Action Items B., C. and D. are all linked to or include the new Sister Grove RWRRF and total approximately \$95 million. He advised Brett Ellis will describe how improvements are linked.

III. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Consider Approval of Wastewater Committee meeting minutes – May 26, 2021
Upon a motion by Director Lynn Shuyler and a second by Director Marvin Fuller, the Wastewater Committee voted unanimously to approve the May 26, 2021, Wastewater Committee meeting minutes.

B. **Authorize award of construction contract and internal inspection services on UEFIS North McKinney Transfer Lift Station and North McKinney Transfer Force Main – Administrative Memorandum No. 5753**

- Consider recommendation on authorizing award of a construction contract with Crescent – McKee Joint Venture in the amount of \$85,787,000 and authorizing internal inspection costs of \$396,000 (Total \$86,183,000) for Project Nos. 501-0513-18 and 501-0514-18 North McKinney Transfer Lift Station and North McKinney Transfer Force Main

Engineering Manager Bret Ellis presented this item. He advised this item is to award a construction contract and authorize funding for the North McKinney Transfer Lift Station and Transfer Force Main projects and internal inspection services of the North McKinney Transfer Force Main. Construction of this North McKinney Transfer Lift station, adjacent to the existing North McKinney Lift Station, and dual 48-inch Transfer Force Main will convey wastewater from the proposed North McKinney Transfer Lift Station to the proposed Sister Grove RWRRF. Mr. Ellis provided details of the components of this project. A video of the modeling and a depiction of the lift station was provided.

Mr. Ellis reviewed several Competitive Sealed Proposals that were received. A point scoring system based on several factors was utilized along with the pricing to select the constructor who could provide the best value. Staff is recommending Crescent-McKee Joint Venture for this project. Internal inspections for the force main will be included in the cost.

Upon a motion by Director Lynn Shuyler and a second by Director Robert Appolito, the Wastewater Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval to the Board of Directors.

C. **Authorize execution of program management services agreement for the Sister Grove Regional Water Resource Recovery Facility (RWRRF) and the North McKinney Transfer Lift Station projects – Administrative Memorandum No. 5754**

- Consider recommendation on authorizing the Executive Director to execute a program management services agreement with Freese and Nichols, Inc. in the amount of \$7,256,746 for program management, construction management,

inspection, technical and administrative resources to supplement NTMWD staff in the oversight and management of the projects related to the timely completion of the Sister Grove RWRRF for Project Nos. 301-0426-16 and 501-0513-18 Sister Grove Regional Water Resource Recovery Facility and North McKinney Transfer Lift Station

Bret Ellis presented this item. He advised this item is to authorize funding for program management services agreement for the Sister Grove RWRRF and the North McKinney Transfer Lift Station projects. This proposed agreement will provide outsourced program management, construction management, inspection, technical and administrative resources to supplement NTMWD staff in the oversight and management of the projects related to the timely completion of the Sister Grove RWRRF.

Mr. Ellis reviewed the current major wastewater projects underway and those planned. He provided a system map of the Sister Grove project. Mr. Ellis advised staff selected Freese and Nichols for the proposed program management services. In response to a Director's question, he advised two other firms were interviewed as well.

Upon a motion by Director Marvin Fuller and a second by Director Lynn Shuyler, the Wastewater Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval to the Board of Directors.

D. **Authorize additional engineering services for the Sister Grove Regional Water Resource Recovery Facility – Administrative Memorandum No. 5755**

- Consider recommendation on authorizing additional engineering services with CDM Smith, Inc. in the amount of \$1,524,899 for additional construction phase engineering services needed to support the review of submittals from the multiple contractors and to coordinate with the proposed program management team for Project No. 301-0426-16, Sister Grove Regional Water Resource Recovery Facility

Bret Ellis presented this item. He advised this item is to recommend approving funding for additional construction phase engineering services for the Sister Grove RWRRF. The Construction Manager At-Risk (CMAR) utilized multiple bid packages strategy to receive competitive proposals to significantly reduce the construction cost of the project while securing the resources needed to construct the facility. The additional construction phase engineering services are needed to review submittals from the multiple contractors and to coordinate with the proposed program management team.

Upon a motion by Director Robert Appolito and a second by Director Lynn Shuyler, the Wastewater Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval to the Board of Directors.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Update on Floyd Branch Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant treatment disruption

Scott Hoelzle, Interim Assistant Deputy/Wastewater Conveyance System Manager, presented this item. He reviewed that the Floyd Branch RWWTP serves a small area in the City of Richardson. He said it has 2.4 million gallons per day average daily flow.

Mr. Hoelzle advised that on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at approximately 10 a.m., Floyd Branch RWWTP staff observed low pH levels (2.5) at the influent. NTMWD Environmental Services Department and City of Richardson were notified for assistance locating the source of discharge. The City of Richardson maintains their own pretreatment program so the NTMWD was investigating for the benefit of the City. Influent pH levels had returned to normal by 12 p.m. with no apparent impact to the treatment process. On Wednesday, August 11, 2021, low influent pH levels (2.6) reoccurred in the morning and remained low until approximately 4 p.m. Plant staff implemented counter measures by adding chemicals to increase pH levels; however, a long period of low pH resulted in biological treatment failure. The influent pH levels were back to 6.7 at the plant by 6 p.m.

Mr. Hoelzle advised that on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, staff worked with the City of Richardson to trace the flow to an industrial area that could have been the source of the discharge. On Thursday, August 12, 2021, TCEQ and the Cities of Dallas and Richardson were notified of water quality impacts and a press release was issued. Mr. Hoelzle reviewed the measures for correction and stated an environmental impact of dead fish was reported to Texas Parks and Wildlife. On Friday, August 13, 2021, Dallas Water Utilities authorized NTMWD to discharge flows into their collection system in order to minimize environmental impacts. This occurred until Saturday morning.

NTMWD anticipates that enforcement will only be directed to the business responsible for the discharge. The biological process at the plant has gradually restored and by Sunday, August 15, 2021, the effluent flow samples started meeting daily max water quality requirements.

B. Update on construction market conditions

Bret Ellis presented this item. He provided an overview of issues that have impacted the District's construction projects including COVID-19, laborer shortages, and the winter storm. He advised materials shortages included fiberglass, HVAC equipment, and concrete, and delays in delivery of equipment and materials has also had an impact.

Mr. Ellis reviewed other factors that impact the District's projects, including uncertainty of bids, increased need to provide oversight during construction, additional coordination of projects, and construction delays.

C. Discuss South Mesquite Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Peak Flow Management and Expansion project

Bret Ellis presented this item. He advised the South Mesquite Creek RWWTP current permitted annual average daily flow is 33 million gallons per day (MGD) and peak two-hour flow is 82.5 MGD. Population projections in the service area indicate expansion to 41 MGD annual average daily flow is needed. A facility map was reviewed.

Mr. Ellis advised this project will come to the Board of Directors at its September meeting. It will include the peak flow management final design, and a final design for a second bid package for new peak flow facilities. It will also include a master plan and preliminary engineering for expansion to 41 MGD.

- D. Discuss Lower East Fork Regional Water Resource Recovery Facility Conceptual design

Assistant Deputy R.J. Muraski presented this item. He provided background of this project advising that significant growth occurring around the area currently served by South Mesquite RWWTP include Rockwall, Forney, Mesquite, Heath and Seagoville. The current service area population is 275,000 and estimated to grow in population to 400,000 by 2040. The South Mesquite RWWTP current capacity is 33 MGD, with planned expansions to 41 MGD and potentially 49 MGD. There is a need for additional treatment beyond the South Mesquite Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and conveyance. A map of the existing and potential future wastewater service area was reviewed.

Mr. Muraski advised that a conceptual design study will provide capacity needs for the next 60 years, provide a recommended location, access the feasibility of expanding the existing RWWTP, and provide measures for protection of water quality in streams and other affected water bodies.

Mr. Muraski advised that \$750,000 is in the Capital Improvement Program budget for this study and staff is recommending Freese and Nichols. He noted that the Lower East Fork RWRRF Conceptual Design will guide best value decisions for a "future proof" long-term strategy and an actionable short-term implementation plan. This item will go before the Board of Directors in September.

- E. Opportunity for Committee members to provide feedback on Wastewater Committee meeting

There were no comments from Committee members.

- F. Opportunity for Committee members to request potential future agenda items
(No substantive discussion of items will take place at this time)

There were no potential future agenda items requested.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the Wastewater Committee was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVED:


GEORGE CRUMP
Chairman